

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



August 1991

Volume 4, Number 8

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

International Literacy Day - September 8

B.C. Lions Kickoff for Literacy

The B.C. Lions football team will open their game against the Ottawa Rough Riders at the Vancouver B.C. Place Stadium September 4 with a tribute to adult literacy. The kickoff is expected to be performed by Brian Butters, Editor-in-Chief, *The Province*, and Lee Weinstein, President of Literacy B.C. The kickoff will be accompanied by a 60-second message about literacy on the reader board and as a sound broadcast. The tribute will be seen by a potential stadium audience of 40,000 people and the game will be broadcast on TSN television September 4 at 7:30 p.m.

This event is one example of the media coverage taking place through the provincial Literacy Public Awareness Campaign -- a B.C. literacy cost-shared project between the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the National Literacy Secretariat, which has contracted with McKim Advertising of Vancouver.

Other media coverage arranged by the Public Awareness Campaign around International Literacy Day includes interviews on three radio programs:

Metromagazine, C-ISL, 650 AM
September 1 and September 8, 8:00 a.m.
Interview with Linda Mitchell, Literacy Public Awareness Campaign committee member and spokesperson

This Week's World, CKLG, 730 AM
September 8, 6:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.
Interview with Linda Mitchell

Sunday in Vancouver, CFUN, 1400 AM
September 8, 7:00 a.m.
Interview with Lee Weinstein

McKim Advertising also reports that columnist Lynn Cockburn of *The Province* will be writing a feature on literacy for the September 8 edition. Cockburn plans to describe her own experience of being unable to read by spending a day without her glasses. ☐

Accreditation Task Force Calls for Input

A committee of literacy and adult basic education practitioners scheduled to meet September 15 at Douglas College in New Westminster is calling for input from the field on the issue of literacy/ABE instructor accreditation.

The committee, The Literacy/ABE Instructor Accreditation Task Force, was established on July 9, 1991 following working sessions on the topic which took place at the annual general meeting and conference of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. in Prince Rupert, April, 1991, and at the Literacy B.C. conference June 21-22 in Richmond.

The goals of the task force are to:

- ❖ ensure that debate about instructor accreditation continues throughout the field;
- ❖ learn about other national and international models of accreditation; and
- ❖ document and report on any meetings and events held about the issue.

To date, the task force has assembled *A Synopsis of the Ongoing Debate* from the Prince Rupert and Richmond working sessions, and from a

subsequent meeting of the working group in Vancouver on May 1, 1991. This report states that the ABEABC will "support continued dialogue [in the fall] by encouraging responses and supporting events around the province."

The task force, according to the report, "welcomes [your] participation in any way, whether as a working member of the task force, a liaison to local groups, as a small group facilitator, or as an individual responding to the issues."

The report continues, "We invite you to initiate discussion on what constitutes good practice and hence appropriate instructor education and accreditation practices."

Copies of the *Synopsis* were mailed out with the Summer 1991 edition of *Groundwork*, the tri-yearly professional journal of the ABEABC.

The Literacy/ABE Instructor Accreditation Task Force can be contacted care of:

Gillies Malnarich
Developmental Studies Program
Douglas College
P.O. Box 2503
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 5B2
Phone: 527-5411 □

Fundraising Auction to Aid Learning Disabled Adults

Bid by phone, fax, or computer modem on more than 100 items ranging from theatre tickets to computer software — and at the same time support services and resources for learning disabled adults. The Adult Learning Disabilities Association's third annual Fax and Phone Auction, a one-of-a-kind fundraiser, is scheduled to take place October 2 from noon to 11 p.m. from ALDA's office in Vancouver.

ALDA is a non-profit, public awareness, referral and counselling service that provides help for adults with learning disabilities.

The auction, says ALDA Executive Director Grace Piontovsky, will enable ALDA to continue its current projects and raise funds for future programs. Current projects are a computer bulletin board, assessment service, counselling, a resource library, and ongoing referrals and advocacy.

To participate, callers place bids (payable by cash, cheque or credit card) by phone or fax with ALDA volunteers and the item goes to the highest bidder, who is notified by phone when the auction closes. Bid booklets

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detailing the donated items — ranging in value from \$4.25 to \$650.00 — are available at all Vancouver public libraries and community centres and at the following locations:

The Bay (downtown Vancouver)
Lonsdale Quay (North Vancouver)
Lansdowne Park Shopping Centre (Richmond)
Oakridge Centre (Vancouver)
Park Royal Shopping Centre (West Vancouver)
Sinclair Centre (Vancouver)

Many of the items for the auction can be viewed at ALDA's office (#1322 - 510 West Hastings Street, phone 683-5554) until October 1.

Sample items in the auction are:

- ❖ computer software valued from \$350 - \$650 (donated by Microsoft)
- ❖ a video, *Rock & Roll & Reading* (donated by READ Canada/Frontier College)
- ❖ one hour in a floatation tank (donated by the Bodhi Tree Centre)

There will be two direct telephone lines to the auction (683-5554 and 683-5557); a fax number (683-2380); and a modem number (693-6485).



Literacy and Learning Disabilities Project

A series of workshops will be held across Canada this fall as part of a pilot project by the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC) to build links with the literacy community.

The LDAC is a national, non-profit organization, based in Ottawa, with chapters in each province and territory, dedicated to the advancement of the education, employment, social development, legal rights and general well-being of people with learning disabilities.

The focus of the "Literacy and Learning Disabilities Project," funded by the National Literacy Secretariat, is the development of a comprehensive manual for literacy tutors and teachers to help them identify and assess learning disabilities. The manual will be introduced in invitational workshops to be held from September 16 - November 13 in 12 cities across Canada.

June Bourgeau, Executive Director of the LDAC, says the project is the response to a need the Association has recognized to work together and share information with literacy organizations.

"For several years, the LDAC has been receiving requests for information from literacy tutors, teachers and program administrators who are eager to learn more about learning disabilities and effective teaching methods," she says. "The manual is designed to provide them with the knowledge and understanding they need to help adults with learning disabilities in their efforts to improve their literacy skills."

The Association defines learning disabilities as:

"... a heterogeneous group of disorders due to identifiable or inferred central nervous system dysfunction. Such disorders may be

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 Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
 1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
 684-0624 Lower Mainland
 684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly and distributed on the last working day of the month. It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



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manifested by delays in early development and/or difficulties in any of the following areas: attention, memory, reasoning, coordination, communicating, reading, writing, spelling, calculation, social competence and emotional maturation.

...[They] may affect learning and behaviour in any individual, including those with potentially average, or above average intelligence.

...[They] may arise from genetic variations, biochemical factors, events in the pre- to perinatal period, [etc.]...."

The workshops will introduce the manual, called *Bringing Literacy within Reach: Identifying and Teaching Adults with Learning Disabilities*, to individuals invited from a variety of literacy-associated groups. The participants will be provided with information on the resources and services available in their respective province or territory. Feedback from the workshops will later be used to revise the manual.

"The project is building strong links between the LDAC and the literacy community," says Bourgeau. "Through working together, we are developing an effective, long-term plan for teaching literacy to adults with learning disabilities in order that they may realize their full potential." □

Why, Where and How of Literacy Materials

Literacy materials — what they are, where to find them, and how to purchase and produce them — will be the focus of a day-long event open to the public scheduled for October 25 from 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver.

"Literacy Materials: Why, Where and How?" is sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Library Federation Literacy Advisory Committee, and funded by the B.C. Library Association's Library-Literacy Link Project. The event will feature publishers' exhibits, sessions on plain language, self-publishing and selection criteria, and a roundtable of publisher's representatives. Roundtable participants will discuss the literacy materials needs of librarians, publishers, and practitioners in the adult basic education and English as a second language field.

Confirmed speakers to date are:

- ❖ Joan Acosta, Capilano College English as a second language instructor, on plain language
- ❖ Laurie Gould, Vancouver Community College, King Edward Campus basic education instructor, on selection criteria

- ❖ Thomas Quigley, librarian, Vancouver Public Library, on library processing
- ❖ Tom Schoenewolf, Benwell Atkins sales representative, on self-publishing.

Roundtable participants are:

- ❖ Aphrodite Harris, Public Services Librarian, Vancouver Community College, King Edward Campus
- ❖ Linda Mitchell, Executive Director, Literacy B.C.
- ❖ Thomas Quigley, librarian, Vancouver Public Library
- ❖ Margaret Reynolds, Executive Director, Association of Book Publishers of B.C.
- ❖ Gordon Travis, Educational Sales Representative, Prentice-Hall Canada

The event is open to literacy tutors, learners, community groups and institutions, and libraries with an interest in supporting local literacy programs.

The pre-registration deadline is September 25. Cost, including lunch and coffee, is \$25.00.

For more information contact:

Betty Macleod
Richmond Public Library
Phone: 273-6606
or
Thomas Quigley
Vancouver Public Library
Central Branch
Phone: 665-2280 □

Literacy Play to Make Television Debut

A television adaptation of *Reading the Signs*, the play about literacy which toured Canada as a fundraising and awareness event during 1990, will be broadcast on the CBC network at 8:00 p.m. on September 11. The show is hosted by three-time World Figure Skating Champion Kurt Browning.

The one-hour adaptation is a project of World Literacy of Canada, a federally-incorporated non-profit organization which supports literacy and development projects worldwide. The organization mounted the original play, known as the *Developing Freedom Literacy Play Tour*, in partnership with Toronto's Young People's Theatre as a project for 1990, International Literacy Year. The play was performed over 250 times during ILY.

The adaptation "weaves together the best scenes and songs from the play with testimonials from adult learners and tutors who share their own experiences," says Scott Dickson, World Literacy Special Projects Director.

After the broadcast, video tapes of *Reading the Signs* will be

available to interested literacy organizations across Canada. The production is closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

For more information about the show or to obtain a video cassette copy, contact:

World Literacy of Canada
692 Coxwell Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4C 1B6
Phone: (416) 465-4667
Fax: (416) 465-5303 □

Our Own Words #3 Now Out

The third edition of *Our Own Words*, the annual anthology of writings by adult basic education students in British Columbia, was released in August.

The Summer 1991 edition contains short stories, essays, and poetry by 67 contributors, and represents the 15 B.C. college regions and the Open College. Most of the writing is divided between intermediate and advanced levels, with four selections chosen from the provincial level. Many of the selections in the third edition are by Native and English as a second language students.

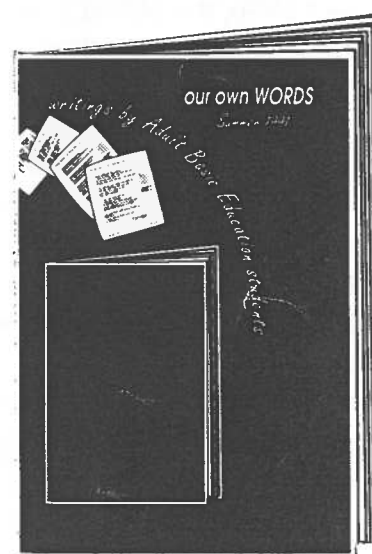
Our Own Words is a project of the Centre for Curriculum and

Professional Development and an editorial committee composed of ABE instructors from five community college regions.

Gwen Armstrong, Coordinator of Adult Basic Education and English as Second Language Programs for the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, says *Our Own Words* "is now an established part of the ABE program in the province."

Our Own Words was distributed in August to English articulation working committee members at every college in the province. (Colleges received approximately 100-400 copies each, depending on the number requested.)

Copies are also available free of charge from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. Phone 684-0624 (Lower Mainland) or 1-800-663-1293 (Toll-free in B.C.). □



MAETT Mandate Widened

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology has announced it will assume broader responsibility for B.C. adult education programs as of September 1991.

As of September, the Ministry will be responsible for all adult English as a second language (ESL) programs, and responsibility for all other adult education programs leading to secondary school completion will be consolidated within the Ministry as of the 1992/1993 school year.

The announcement was made by MAETT Minister Peter Dueck and Education Minister Stan Hagen on July 31, 1991.

Since 1986, the MAETT has been responsible for all adult education, except for adult secondary school completion, the GED (General Education Development) challenge exam, and some ESL programs. These will now be consolidated within the Ministry as of 1992/1993.

"Consolidation of these programs within one ministry will enhance access to adult education," said Hagen. □

Listings Wanted for Workplace Directory

"Workplace Network and Consultation," one of the B.C. 1990/91 literacy cost-shared projects, is seeking input for its directory of workforce education programs in the province, currently in progress or starting this year. To contribute information to the directory, contact the Project Coordinator:

Shirley Abrams
736 West 46th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Z 2R2
Phone: 263-5922

The directory is expected to be available by November, 1991.

Literacy Displays at Vancouver Public Library

The VPL's main branch, at 750 Burrard Street, will be the site of literacy displays mounted by the Plain Language Institute, Literacy

B.C., and the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. The displays will run from August 28 to September 13.

From Rags to Enrichment

A Kentucky-born Vancouver author who credits the discovery of reading with overcoming his poor background will be a featured speaker at a public ceremony hosted by the Vancouver Public Library at 2:00 p.m. Friday, September 6 in the Carnegie Centre theatre, 401 Main Street, Vancouver.

The event, called "A Literacy Celebration," is a Literacy Speakers Service presentation sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Library Federation, with funding from Canada Post.

Writer and editor John Edward Sorrell, who is currently a guest instructor in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of B.C. and whose work has appeared in magazines

and anthologies in Britain, the U.S. and Canada, will join Vancouver Mayor Gordon Campbell speaking "in support of literacy" at the event. A general discussion on libraries' accessibility to literacy students will follow. □

OUR OTHER SERVICES

As well as producing this newsletter, the Adult Literacy Contact Centre has services for all B.C.:

we give information and encouragement by phone to adults who want to know about adult basic education opportunities in their own community;

we provide literacy information to the non-profit and community-based sector, business, labour, the media, all levels of government and the public at large; and

we refer volunteer tutors to adult literacy programs.

Phone free from anywhere in B.C.

1-800-663-1293